

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-5

NEW YORK TIMES
11 DECEMBER 1980

Senate Panel Clears a Carter Aide Of Unmasking U.S. Spy in Soviet

STAT

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 — The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has found "no credible information" to support allegations that a senior official on the National Security Council staff exposed the identity of an important American spy in Moscow in 1977.

A statement issued last Friday by the committee's chairman, Senator Birch Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, and its deputy chairman, Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, did not name the official, but committee sources said it was David L. Aaron, deputy assistant to the President for national security.

The Senate investigation followed inquiries by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which cleared Mr. Aaron of any involvement in the exposure of a senior Soviet official who supplied intelligence information to the United States.

The case has stirred wide discussion because of rumors about Mr. Aaron's involvement and the secret nature of the information provided by the Soviet official.

The Senate investigation was started in September by two committee members, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat, and Malcolm Wallop, a Wyoming Republican.

The committee statement issued last week said that staff members inter-

viewed officials from the F.B.I., C.I.A. and the National Security Agency.

A review of the case this year by The New York Times concluded that unfounded allegations about Mr. Aaron were disseminated around Washington by Republican staff members in the Senate in an apparent effort to embarrass the Carter Administration before the Presidential election.